

INTEREST RATES SHOULD NOT BE RAISED

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve to not raise interest rates again for the seventh time in a year. For months we have seen good numbers in unemployment and the gross national product, yet our working people have not seen this prosperity. This recovery is a slow one, and many have not felt its positive affects on their lives. While we all struggle to find an answer to these puzzling economic times, one thing seems clear: Another interest rate hike by the Fed is not the answer.

True, many traditional indicators are up. However, there are many warning signs that the economy is slowing down. Commercial real estate, retail sales and single-family home construction is lagging behind, as is the recovery of our working people.

These are difficult times. People in my district are working longer hours for less pay, in jobs that they are often over-qualified for. Many don't even know if the job they have today will be there for them tomorrow. In many companies, the trend is to hire workers for temporary positions, those that do not provide health care and other benefits. This kind of instability and uneasiness does not make my constituents feel like the economy is strong—they wonder when the recovery will help them.

It is true that the Fed needs to guard against inflation—but these times do not warrant another change. Inflation indicators show no signs of a drastic change upward. Therefore, the Fed has no need to make drastic moves in raising rates. Since our economic recovery has begun, the Fed has kept monetary policy tight, in order to keep growth slow. Now, it is time for the Fed to allow the recovery to reach those that need a boost the most—the working people of America.

LINE-ITEM VETO

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues and I came prepared to cure Congress of its spending addiction. We offered up our prescription in our Contract With America. Now we are busy carrying out the treatment.

Last week, we passed the balanced budget amendment, and this week we are ready to administer the next part of the cure—the line-item veto. Our President will have at his disposal the same legislative scalpel that 43 of our Nation's Governors use to cut wasteful spending out of their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize former President Ronald Reagan as the "Godfather" of the Federal line-item veto. It would be a great honor to cure this Nation of its spending illness and pass on the legacy of the Reagan budgetary remedy—the Federal line-item veto. This is the fiscal treatment the American people have been waiting for.

Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayer works hard for every dollar they earn and have to send to Washington. The least we can do is make sure that we work together to spend those dollars wisely.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by official business outside of the Chamber, and was therefore unable to vote during rollcall No. 80. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

RIVERHEAD PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, an invaluable public servant is retiring after years of exemplary service as the town supervisor of Riverhead. Since 1979, Joe Janoski has been well respected by many people throughout the State, county, and town governments for his knowledge and experience in local government. In addition to this service, Joe serves as a member of many community organizations including: Knights of Columbus; Lifetime Member of the Polish Town Civic Association; and the Boy Scouts of America.

He is known and respected for his presence at all community functions. He is recognized for his outstanding service and dedication to the community by numerous community organizations including the Riverhead Tri-Club—Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions—and was awarded Man of the Year by the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce.

His greatest accomplishments are the rebirth of balanced economic growth of the town and the professionalization of Riverhead government. He led the way for townwide extension of public water, upgrading and improvement of the town's sewer district facilities, establishment of a scavenger waste facility, establishment of a juvenile aide bureau, and many other milestone projects.

We all wish Joe the best in his well-deserved retirement and owe him a big thank you.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, February 1, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

There was a lot of pressure on President Clinton going into his State of the Union Address, with many calling it one of the most critical speeches of his presidency. Ameri-

cans want him to cooperate with Congress, but also to show he has backbone and can stand up for his principles. The changes voters called for in November have clearly put him on the defensive and have left him struggling to find his agenda for the next two years. The President spoke about where he wants to take our country and how he intends to work with the new Congress to accomplish his goals for the nation. He had mixed success.

Overview: President Clinton said the country is stronger than it was two years ago, but he is concerned that not all Americans shared in the gains. He insisted that government should work better for average Americans.

His overall emphasis was that we should work together for the common good. He is clearly worried that the "common bonds of community" have become "badly frayed"—citizens are working together less and shouting at each other more. He stressed the shared responsibilities of government and citizens. In contrast to his speech in 1994, he articulated no new major federal programs. His speech was short on demands for action, but long on appeals for responsibility and comity.

He endorsed some traditional programs—school lunch, Head Start, clean air and water—and called for an increased minimum wage and a national campaign against teenage pregnancy. He considerably scaled back his goals for health care reform. He sounded conservative themes when he advocated downsizing government, cutting regulations, reforming welfare, cutting taxes, and strengthening defense. He attacked lobbyists, and called on Congress to pass lobbying and campaign finance reform. He spoke only briefly about foreign affairs, urging Congress to pass the Mexican loan guarantees, the START II Treaty, and new legislation to strengthen our hand against terrorists.

Apparently the American people still listen to President Clinton. Polls indicate that some 80% of viewers approved of the direction he laid out for the country in his speech.

Drawbacks: The speech was too long—eighty-one minutes. This president clearly likes to talk; as usual, he spoke easily and forcefully. He spoke with humor, extended a conciliatory hand, and acknowledged his own mistakes.

But I left the speech feeling that in some ways an opportunity was lost. He had a chance to explain his core principles to the American people in simple terms. Yet the speech was clearly too long and too diffuse, and did not convey forcefully his convictions and his agenda. It covered some three dozen different programs and subjects, making it hard for listeners to pick out a few central themes.

Major Points: Politically his speech was right down the middle—a very centrist speech. He avoided the extremes of the right and the left, favoring a smaller, less costly government but still acknowledging a role for government.

The President stressed putting away partisan differences and pettiness and working toward the common good. These comments were well received by the American people, but the partisan nature of Members' applause throughout the speech instead might suggest a difficult year ahead.

"Opportunity" and "responsibility" were words often repeated, and he talked at length about a "new covenant" between government and the American people: Government will help them obtain the tools they need to improve their lives, while in return asking them to take responsibility for themselves and their communities. This means,